

## How and where can I apply?

Apply for Special Assistance at your county department of social services. You may send someone to represent you. Please bring the following items, if you have them, when you apply at the county department of social services:

- Income information that includes recent pay stubs, Social Security, SSI, or Veteran's Administration (VA) award letters;
- Savings and checking account information that includes passbooks, checkbooks, bank statements, etc;
- Information on assets such as property, stocks, bonds, IRAs, annuities, and trust funds owned by you and or your spouse;
- Social security card or other verification of Social Security number;
- Proof of Age (birth certificate or other); and
- Insurance.

After all of your information is provided, expect the application process to take up to 45 days for aged individuals and 60 days for disabled individuals. Processing time varies depending on how long it takes to verify an applicant's information.

## What is the penalty for fraud?

Fraud is committed when an applicant, recipient or someone acting on behalf of an applicant or recipient knowingly gives incorrect or misleading information to get public assistance. Recipients must report any change in their financial situation that may affect their eligibility within five days of the change. The penalty for fraud is repayment of the money and can include a fine, imprisonment, and/or termination from the program.

Division of Social Services



N.C. Department of Health and Human Services  
325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh  
Mailing address: 2405 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2405

The NC DHHS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DSS 8166 (05/01)  
Adult and Family Services



## Help for North Carolinians Who Need an Adult Care Home



### The State/County Special Assistance for Adults Program

*Do you live in an adult care home, such as a rest home or a mental health group home? Are you considering such a living arrangement? Need help paying for this care? Read further to see if you are eligible for Special Assistance.*

## Can I get help paying my expenses at an adult care home?

For older or disabled adults who need to live or are currently in an adult care home but cannot afford it, the State/County Special Assistance for Adults Program helps pay for room and board. The checks are sent monthly to eligible individuals living in licensed adult care facilities, as long as that facility is licensed by the NC Division of Facility Services and follows anti-discrimination practices laid out in the Civil Rights Act.



## Am I eligible?

Low income people are eligible if they are over 65 years old, or if they are disabled according to Social Security guidelines and between the ages of 18 and 65.

All applicants must be U.S. citizens or legal aliens, meet income and assets requirements, and be a resident of North Carolina for at least 90 days. They may also be a recent arrival who are moving to NC to be near a close relative and long-time NC resident. A close relative is defined as the applicant's parent, grandparent, brother, sister, spouse, or child.

**NOTE:** If you are eligible for Special Assistance, you automatically become eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid helps pay for medical expenses and treatment. Medicaid also helps pay for personal care services, which include necessary activities of daily living, such as dressing and bathing.



## What are the income and assets requirements?

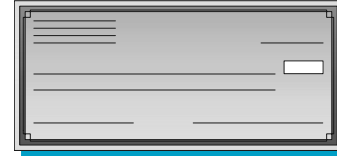
Special Assistance is available to applicants with a monthly income of \$1117.50 or less and who have savings and assets worth less than \$2,000 for individuals, \$3,000 for married couples.

Examples of countable income include wages, retirement benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Veteran's benefits.

Examples of assets that are counted are property, cash, savings, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, annuities, some IRAs, and the cash value of life insurance policies.

Some assets that are not counted are a home used as a primary residence (under certain conditions), personal belongings, life

insurance with a cash value of \$1,500 or less, burial plots and burial insurance. One essential vehicle is excluded as a resource if it is the primary mode of transportation.



## How much will my Special Assistance check be?

The maximum amount a Special Assistance recipient can receive in aid is set by the General Assembly each year. Similarly, the General Assembly sets the maximum rate an Adult Care Home can charge for room and board, currently \$1,062, for Special Assistance recipients. The amount of an individual's check is determined by taking the maximum rate and subtracting the individual's total monthly countable income. A personal needs allowance of \$36 is added to the maximum rate to allow an individual some spending money for clothes and other essentials each month.

\$1,062	Maximum Rate
+ \$36	Personal Needs Allowance
<hr/> = \$1,098	Maintenance Amount
- (varies)	Total countable monthly income
<hr/> = \$	SA Payment Amount

**Note:** The maximum rates and income figures usually increase annually in October. Please confirm the published rates with the county department of social services.

An individual is entitled to a \$20 income exclusion that they are allowed to keep. For most other kinds of earned income, there is an initial \$65 exclusion and 1/2 of the remainder of their income is counted.

